(c) whether Government are capable to meet the requirements of these countries; and

(d) if so, the action taken, so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Several countries including USA, UK, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Japan, China and Singapore have evinced keen interest in utilising the services of Information Technology professionals from India. The Government has not placed any restriction on their movement to other countries.

Meantime, the Government has on 7th August, 2000 constituted a Task Force to prepare a long term strategy for human resouce development in the area of Information Technology.

Pirated software in Companies

3342. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of Government organisations and corporate houses are using pirated software in their offices;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received from the affected organisations and steps taken to contain piracy in software;

(c) whether Government have approved the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and Business Software Alliance (BSA) for their help in containing piracy in software; and

(d) if so, the details of impact on the measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (d) While the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and Business Software Alliance (BSA) are actively engaged in containing piracy, the Government has also taken several steps in this regard as below:

— Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of Software is covered under the Copyright law violation of which attracts both fine and imprisonment.

— Information Technology Act 2000 has provisions to deal with unauthorised copying of software.

— To create awareness, Government has been supporting antipiracy campaign of NASSCOM.

— Instructions have been issued to Government Departments to use the legal copy of the software.

— Custom duty on Software has been made zero.

— Government has set up a Copyright Enfocement Advisory Council.

— Organisation of seminars/workshops to create greater awareness about Copyright law among the enforement personnel and general public.

— Creation of separate cells in police headquarters to deal with the problem.

As a result of the above measures, there is an increasing awareness amongst computer software developers about this menace.

Employment Through I.T. Modes

3343. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to secure the objective of fully local employment to people especially in hilly and remote backward areas lik Uttarkhand by way of Information Technology modes, such as cyber cafes, teleworking, on-line transcription etc.,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The workshop on the ""Role of Science and Technology in the Integrated Development of Uttarakhand" which was held during April 21-23, 2000 at Koshi-Katarmal, Almora covered a wide range of issues for integrated development of the region through Science & Technology intervention namely (i) Georesources (ii) Bio-resources (iii) Infrastructure and Technological Interventions and (iv) Socio-economic aspects. An important objective of the plan of integrated development is fully employment and high quality environment.